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Ultra-Rightist Group Defended

The Indiana co-ordinator for the John Birch Society, Herbert J. (Joe) Pierson, said yesterday he is sure the militant anti-Communist group would welcome an attorney general's investigation.

His statement was in reply to a call for such a probe issued by S. B. Hocking, Democratic national committeeman from North Dakota. Hocking said the ultra-conservative group is "engaging in activities detrimental to the welfare of the United States at a time of grave international danger."

THE STATEMENTS came in a developing flurry of national

publicity about the society which is headed by Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass.

Senator Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona, a leading Republican spokesman for conservatism, said at Los Angeles that he did not know enough about the society to endorse or reject it.

Pierson was one of a small group of Midwesterners who met with Welch in Indianapolis and founded the group in 1958.

Pierson disputed the contention that the society is semi-secret.

Pierson, who says he gets a nominal salary as full-time co-ordinator, formerly worked in the public information department of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce. He also is vice-president of the Indiana Citizens Committee for Research Inc., a clearing house for anti-Communist information and activity.

The national society's members include Clarence Manion of South Bend, former dean of the Law School at the University of Notre Dame, and two former presidents of the National Association of Manufacturers, William J. Grede

and C. G. Parker, both of Wisconsin.

Among the statements attributed to Welch which have fed the controversy are these:

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, his brother Milton Eisenhower, the late John Foster Dulles and his brother Allen Dulles were members of the Communist underground.

The society should work for the impeachment of Warren, repeal of the income tax law, elimination of social action by Christian churches, an end to NATO and foreign aid, cessation of cultural and other exchanges with Russia and re-

strictions of collective bargaining. The idea that the nation must mobilize its resources to fight the external dangers of Soviet military might is a part of the Communist plot.

Pierson says he has Welch's word that the comment on the Eisenhower and Dulles brothers was out of context.